

EDITORIAL

In the last two years, *Nucleic Acids Research* has published special Issues devoted to web servers. These Issues complement the annual Database Issue, which has now appeared in twelve successive years. The Web Server Issue highlights the many servers that are available on the internet to perform useful computations on DNA, RNA and protein sequences and structures. Between them, these Issues provide an unparalleled array of useful computational services. The current Issue includes a summary of web servers produced by Francis Ouellette and his colleagues at the UBC Bioinformatics Centre that complements the compilation of databases produced by Michael Galperin [*Nucleic Acids Res.* (2005) **33**, D5–24]. The purpose of the latest Web Server Issue is to provide a repository where authors of web servers can highlight their offerings and readers can find out what is available.

In the current issue there are reports of 166 web servers in 159 papers that run the gamut from simple analysis programs to three-dimensional protein structure prediction. The servers described have all been subjected to rigorous peer review, are available free of charge and provide invaluable resources to the scientific community. The scientists and programmers who have provided these resources deserve our immense thanks. They illustrate the very best of the scientific spirit that transcends national boundaries and promotes cooperation in the sharing of the resources.

Authors interested in submitting articles for the 2006 web server issue should read the Instructions to Authors for Web Server papers on the *NAR* website (http://www3.oup.co.uk/jnls/list/nar/instauth/submission_webserver.html) and should contact Dr. R. J. Roberts (roberts@neb.com) before sending in their articles, preferably before December 31, 2005. The deadline for submission of articles will be February 14, 2006.

